

Let us all work for a violence-free world.

MICHIGAN
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PREVENTION &
TREATMENT BOARD



Report to Michigan

State of Michigan
Family Independence Agency



MICHIGAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION & TREATMENT BOARD

Created by the State Legislature in 1978, the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor to lead statewide efforts to eliminate violence against women in Michigan. The powers and duties of the board include:

- Provide funding, coordinate and monitor programs for the prevention of domestic violence and services to survivors.
- Develop standards for the implementation and administration of domestic violence services.
- Provide planning and technical assistance for the development, implementation and administration of domestic violence programs and services.
- Coordinate educational and public informational programs.
- Study and recommend changes in domestic violence civil and criminal procedures.
- Advise the legislature and governor on domestic violence issues.
- Conduct research to develop and implement effective domestic violence prevention programs.
- Help law enforcement agencies develop a system for monitoring and maintaining a uniform reporting system to provide accurate statistical data on domestic violence.

Message from the Governor

I am pleased to introduce this premiere issue of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board – Report to Michigan. In this issue you will learn of the Board's charge and discover how statewide organizations are working in tandem with MDVPTB to create strategies that will provide safety for domestic violence survivors and their children, while holding domestic violence assailants accountable for their behavior.

The Board and its staff, in conjunction with other state agencies and outside organizations, are designing policies, creating initiatives, developing training curricula and producing educational materials that can dramatically reduce domestic and sexual violence in our state. One of those collaborations was my domestic violence homicide prevention task force led by Lt. Governor Dick Posthumus. The findings of this task force resulted in important recommendations for:

- Judges
- Law enforcement officers
- Medical personnel
- Service providers
- Schools
- Local communities

Because of these accomplishments, Michigan is emerging as a leader in responding to and preventing violence against women. However, there is still much to do and your support is vital to the Board's continuing success. Creating a violence-free state requires a community approach and YOU are essential to this effort.



John Engler
Governor

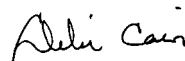
Message from the Board and Director

The Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board is proud to report that Michigan is a national leader in addressing the tragic reality of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Reading through this Report to Michigan you will see that our state has launched many innovative efforts to appropriately respond to and dramatically reduce violence against women.

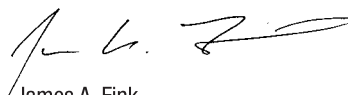
We are proud of our accomplishments, yet mindful that much remains to be done. The activities of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board described in this report demonstrate how we are collaborating with other organizations to move more effectively toward a violence-free state.

As we continue this challenge, we are fortunate to live in a state where the Governor and Lt. Governor have an unwavering commitment to the eradication of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Our Attorney General and State Legislature have also given these issues strong backing, and this bipartisan support is largely responsible for putting Michigan in a national leadership role.

Please join us in our efforts to create a violence-free Michigan.



Debi Cain
Executive Director
Michigan Domestic Violence
Prevention & Treatment Board



James A. Fink
Chair
Michigan Domestic Violence
Prevention & Treatment Board

In 1978, when the Michigan
Domestic Violence Prevention and
Treatment Board was

CREATING a Vio

created, there were few places or
services for victims of domestic and
sexual violence. Since then, there's
been much progress, including the

Violence Against Women Act,
which was approved by Congress
in 1994. This important legislation
provides critical safeguards for
victims of domestic violence,
sexual assault and stalking. It also
funds state efforts to address
violence against women. As
legislators, legal professionals, law
enforcers and social workers, it's
our responsibility to work together
to end violence against women.
And through the Board, together
we're making a difference.

Violence against women is a
phenomenon of such complexity
that no one social institution can
provide an adequate response.

Rather, to bring about change and end
violence, we need a comprehensive
community effort which encompasses
education, advocacy and appropriate
intervention. The Board has been working
to accomplish this goal, developing
programs and services
which reach new
community
groups



NEW EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

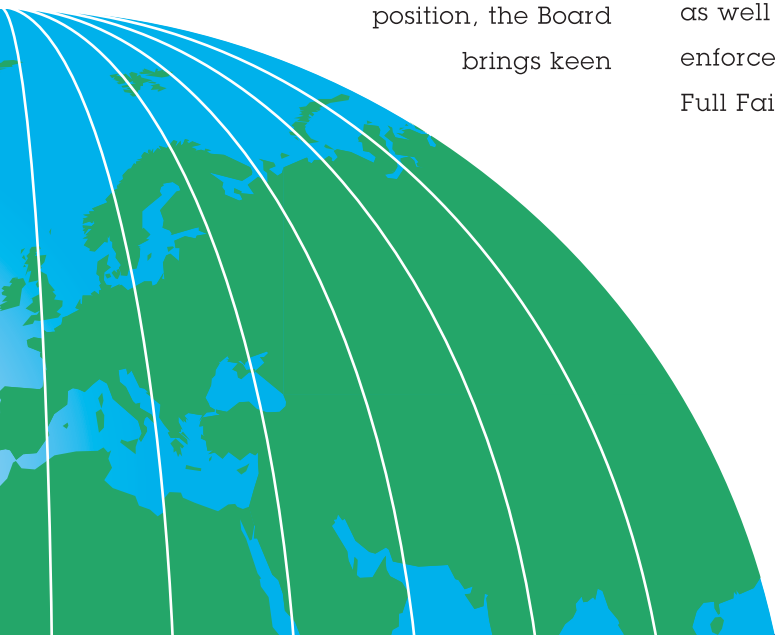
Violence-Free World

and taking on leadership roles to more proactively end violence in our society.

For example, the Board chair and executive director are members of the Governor's Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force (see sidebar), whose mission is to identify and make recommendations concerning the role of the state in preventing domestic violence homicides. In this position, the Board brings keen

insight and technical assistance on domestic violence issues to our state's leading governing officials.

Similarly, the Board chairs a statewide Full Faith and Credit Workgroup to help implement the Violence Against Women Act provisions which require all states and Indian tribes to enforce each other's protection orders. The workgroup developed model codes, as well as state and tribal law enforcement and court protocols for Full Faith and Credit implementation.



MICHIGAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

In 1999, more than 100 women in Michigan were murdered as a result of domestic violence. Faced with this tragic reality, Governor John Engler created the Michigan Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force. Since 1991, Michigan has been a national leader in enacting laws protecting victims of domestic violence. This task force, a panel of 12 dedicated professionals under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Dick Posthumus, set out to build on this record of leadership and stop domestic violence homicides.

Since inception, the task force has worked diligently to reach broad agreement on current challenges and recommendations for the future. Based on research, witness testimony, consultations with legal professionals, domestic violence service providers and victims and more, the task force concluded the following:

- The public – from children to adults – must be educated and made aware that domestic violence is not a private family matter, but a crime that too many women live in fear of every day;
- Victims of domestic violence are often frustrated in their efforts to gain protection through the court system;
- No accurate or uniform system for reporting and standardizing data collection for domestic violence crimes and homicides currently exists, making it nearly impossible to track and study the incidents of abuse; and
- A standardized method of domestic violence prevention training is needed in preparing members of the judiciary and law enforcement community to better respond to victims' needs.

With these findings, the task force recommends:

- Increase public awareness and education.
- Increase victim protection throughout judicial proceedings.
- Create uniform standards for reporting and tracking domestic violence crimes and offenders.
- Enhance domestic violence prevention training for judges and law enforcement.



NEW STATE INITIATIVES

GOVERNOR'S
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HOMICIDE PREVENTION
TASK FORCE

FULL FAITH AND CREDIT
WORKGROUP

MODEL PROTOCOL FOR
SCREENING FOR DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

COLLABORATIONS AMONG
STATE AGENCIES

New Collaborations Improve Response to Violence Against Women

Collaborations have always been a critical part of the Board's agenda. This year, the Board continued to work with other agencies on initiatives to improve the state's response to domestic and sexual violence.

In collaboration with the State Court Administrative Office, the Board chaired a statewide workgroup to develop a model protocol for courts and mediators to screen for, identify and appropriately respond to domestic violence when parties are ordered into alternative dispute resolution. If and when mediation is used in domestic relations, it is crucial to first identify if violence is a factor in a relationship. As such, the workgroup created a model protocol to more accurately screen for domestic violence.

The Board also continues to work with other state agencies on a range of issues. For example, the Board collaborated with the Michigan Women's Commission and Michigan Department of Community Health, creating public information pamphlets on domestic violence and stalking. It also served on advisory committees, such as a domestic violence statistical surveillance project with the Michigan Department of Community Health. These collaborations are just a few of many, all which are crucial to the Board's mission of streamlining statewide violence prevention measures and ensuring victims equitable treatment under law.

A stylized house icon with a black roof, orange walls, and green base, featuring small square windows.

Ongoing Initiatives to End Violence Against Women

Beyond new programs, the Board's ongoing initiatives are crucial to its efforts to end violence against women in our state. Through funding activities, training programs, best practice strategies, educational services and more, the Board works to improve the effectiveness of statewide efforts to respond to and eliminate violence against women.

FUNDING ACTIVITIES

Currently, the Board administers more than \$18 million in federal and state funds to support local domestic and sexual violence programs and agencies. This includes:

■ STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANTS

Support 48 local projects in strengthening the response to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

■ COMPREHENSIVE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM GRANTS

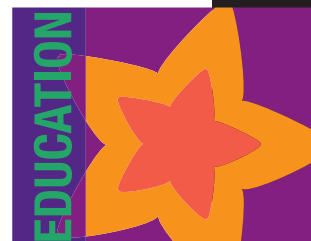
Support 46 domestic violence programs that provide services which include emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis line, individual and group counseling, assistance with housing, medical, legal, financial and transportation matters and children's services.

■ RAPE PREVENTION AND SERVICES GRANTS

Support 26 state rape and sexual assault programs that provide a 24-hour crisis line, individual and group counseling, hospital and/or court advocacy, and prevention programs.

■ RURAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GRANTS

Support 13 nonprofit victim service agencies designed to meet the needs of domestic violence survivors and their children living in rural areas.



■ **TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PILOT PROJECTS**

Support 15 housing projects which provide safe, transitional single-family housing to survivors and their children, as well as support services to help them move to permanent housing.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Each year, the Board, in collaboration with other state partners, develops and provides training products and programs for judges and court personnel, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and domestic and sexual violence service providers. These training products are based on best practice strategies which the Board develops after extensive research of both state and national policies and procedures. As such, the training products work to improve quality, effectiveness and efficiency of our state's response to domestic and sexual violence issues. Ongoing training initiatives include:

■ **CHILD WELFARE AND FIS/FIM TRAINING**


The Board conducts ongoing domestic violence training for Family Independence Managers (FIM), Family Independence Specialists (FIS) and Child welfare workers, including Child Protective Services and Families First.

■ **TRAIN THE TRAINER**

In collaboration with state STOP partners, the Board created a pilot academy to show representatives from local communities how to create domestic violence response training using effective adult learning methods.

■ **STOP PARTNER BEST PRACTICES TRAINING**

The Board works with state STOP partners including the Michigan Judicial Institute, Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards/Michigan State



Police, Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to provide technical assistance and expertise for a full range of training initiatives.

■ **STOP PARTNER TRAINING PUBLICATIONS**

The Board collaborates with its STOP partners to publish training materials, including the following:

*Prosecutors' Use of Expert Testimony
Training Manual*

New Service Provider Training Manual

*Domestic Violence Benchbook: A Guide
to Civil & Criminal Proceedings*

*Interactive Personal Protection Order CD
for Court Support Staff*

Sexual Assault Benchbook

Personal Protection Orders Video

*Michigan Law Enforcement Response to
Domestic Violence Officer Manual*

QUALITY ASSURANCE INITIATIVES

As part of the Board's mission, it strives to improve the quality of all statewide domestic and sexual violence programs. Through its Quality Assurance Standards and Peer Monitoring Program, the Board regularly evaluates grantee organizations.

MICHIGAN RESOURCE CENTER ON DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Educational initiatives are equally important to the Board's mission. Through the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, a collaboration with the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, we provide the newest information on violence against women, including print materials, videos, fax-on-demand services, research and technical assistance and more.

The Board's mission is to lead statewide efforts to eliminate domestic and sexual violence. Through new programs and services, as well as ongoing initiatives, we are making a difference, as we all work together to create a violence-free world.

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
BOARD MEMBERS:**

■

James A. Fink, Chair

Catherine Christ Lucas

Ferne Farber

The Honorable Richard Halloran

Michelle Hayes

Shirley Mann Gray

The Honorable Edward Sosnick



MICHIGAN
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PREVENTION &
TREATMENT BOARD

MISSION

To lead statewide efforts to
eliminate domestic and sexual
violence in Michigan.



235 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 506
Lansing, MI 48909

www.mfia.state.mi.us/CFSAdmin/dv/domestic_violence.html



STATE OF MICHIGAN
**Family
Independence
Agency**

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Authority: FIA Director

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